

Sgt. Jason Bortz



Marines take down a prisoner during urban combat exercises.

COVER STORY

16 Corps tackles warfare in the city — where the CMC says “push will come to shove” in the 21st century.

New advances in technology are taking the Marine Corps into the 21st century through discovery, development, and implementation.

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On the Cover

Marines from 1st Battalion, 6th Marines show their skills during the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory's three-block war demonstration.

Photo by Sgt. Jason Bortz

Marines
MAGAZINE
Online

<http://www.usmc.mil/marines.nsf>

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MarineMail

I'm a retired gunnery sergeant. I was medically retired and am currently on the Temporary Disability Retired List.

I saw part of a speech the commandant gave to a press club a while back that made me think. Part of what the commandant talked about was that prospective Marine recruits wait about six months prior to being sent to boot camp.

During that time, the recruiter gives them lessons on history and tradition. If this is what is being done now, I believe that some retired Marines, if made aware of this, would volunteer their time and services to aid the Marine Corps and local recruiters in this effort.

I know that I would be proud to be able to help the Marine Corps to accomplish the mission any way that I can. The recruiter has a tough job and probably could use some help if possible.

As a retired Marine, I am very familiar with the history and traditions of the Marine Corps, as are other retired Marines. The specifics of what the Corps needs passed to prospective recruits could easily be passed to any volunteer.

Thank you for the chance to make this suggestion.

Gunnery Sgt. Daniel E. Tower
USMC, (Ret.)
Jacksonville, N.C.

We commend you on your willingness to support our recruiting efforts.

As you may well know, the Marine Corps has limited resources for achieving our accession goals. Any assistance provided by a retiree would be well appreciated by the recruiters in the substations throughout the Marine Corps.

Your knowledge of the Corps' history, customs and courtesies, an appreciation for physical fitness, coupled

with your understanding of our core values of honor, courage, and commitment can serve as a valuable tool in motivating the young male and female poolees' for future service in our Corps.

We encourage you to make your availability and willingness to provide assistance known to the local recruiting substation noncommissioned officer in charge who is best able to guide you in your efforts.

Col. T.W. Parker
Chief of Staff,
Marine Corps Recruiting Command

"An innovative, forward-looking, learning organization must have a vehicle to solicit ideas from all of its members," said Commandant of the Marine Corps, Charles C. Krulak. "I want to encourage every Marine who has an idea that will improve our warfighting capability to submit his or her idea via Marine Mail."

The commandant recently added another topic for Marine Mail which should be addressed: "What new concept, idea, tactic, or piece of equipment should the Marine Corps invest in to improve its warfighting capability?"

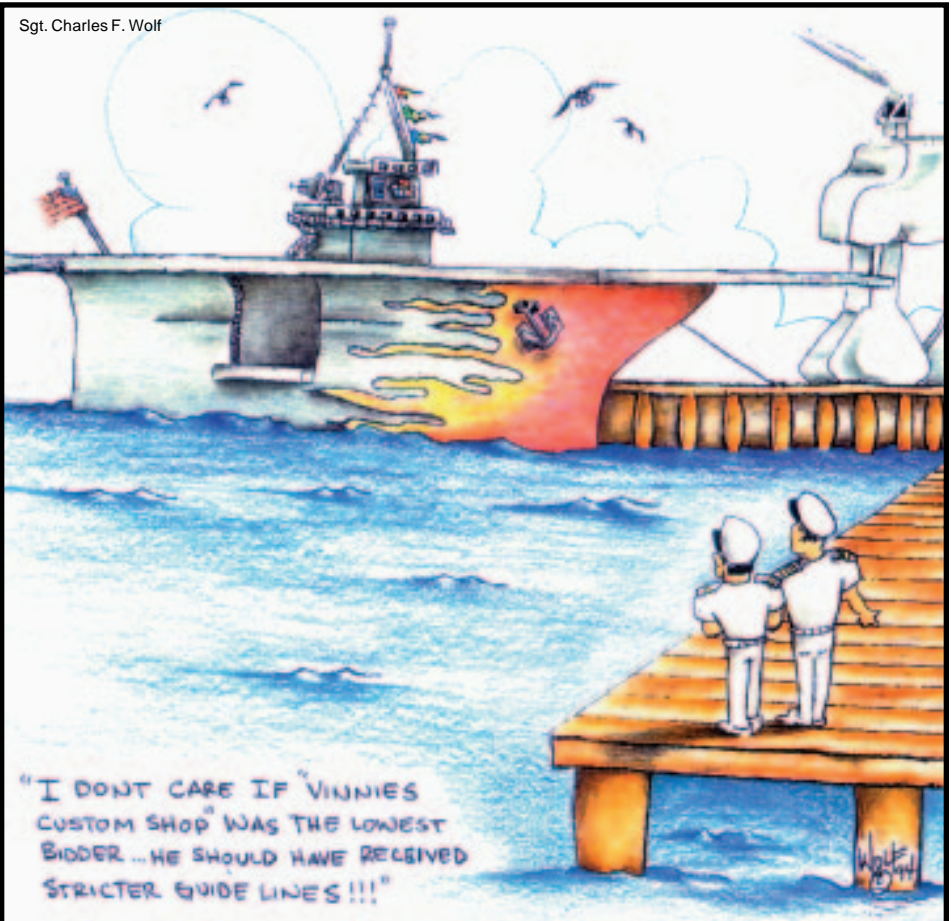
—Commandant's 1998 guidance for Marine Mail

Marines

Commandant of the Marine Corps
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New manning levels for reserves

The Marine Corps recently completed a review of its total force structure as required by the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review. As a result of this review, the reserve component will be reduced from 42,000 Marines to 39,000.

This 3,000-person cut will be taken from Individual Mobilization Augmentees (695), the Selected Marine Corps Reserve (1434), the active reserves (553), and a reduced number of recruits accessed into the Marine Corps Reserve (318). These reductions are expected to be completed by Fiscal Year 2003.

In its overall examination of defense plans, policies and structure, the QDR revalidated the Marine Corps' statutory role as the nation's force-in-readiness, highlighting the enduring requirement for a ready force capable of simultaneous air and ground action, and possessing unimpeded access to potential trouble spots around the world. The QDR report further reflected DoD's intentions to shape the force to meet current and future needs, and indicated the Marine Corps would reduce its active, reserve and civilian components by a total of 6,400 people.

"The ultimate goal of the review and subsequent structure shifts is to better position the Marine Corps for the 21st Century," said Gen. Charles C. Krulak, Commandant of the Marine Corps. "Our major focus was to identify and make recommendations to shift Marine Corps structure which no longer contributes significantly to the Corps' warfighting capability into the Fleet Marine Forces and supporting establishment."

To ensure the Corps is making the most prudent, supportable, and afford-

able reductions in support of the Secretary of Defense's plan, and to verify and refine where the manpower savings could be realized, the commandant directed a thorough total force structure review in both the active and reserve components.

The two force structure review groups worked hand-in-hand to develop a comprehensive total force perspective of the Marine Corps for the 21st century.



Marine reservists from Twin Cities, Minn., provided emergency flood relief assistance to the cities of Moorhead, Minn., and Fargo, N.D., during a flood.

Recommendations for changes to the reserve structure will enhance the Corps' warfighting capability by shifting structure to operating forces, increasing the "tooth to tail" ratio of the total force, said Gen. Krulak.

Further assessment of the review groups' efforts was provided at the 1997 Marine Corps General Officers Symposium in September. This culminated a thorough, analytic process that meets QDR guidance and produces a relevant, ready, capable, and lean reserve force that is fully integrated with the active component.

In conjunction with the personnel reductions, various reserve sites and units throughout the U.S. will experience deactivation and realignments of their organizations and personnel. Specific

actions to minimize the negative effects on Reserve Marines include using appropriate transition benefits as required, and providing Marines affected by the reduction with information, training, and opportunities that will allow them to continue their reserve affiliation.

"One overarching consideration will be to regulate all actions so they do not hurt Marines' chances at promotion, their opportunities for reenlistment or retention, or their opportunities for training or follow-on schooling," said Gen. Krulak. "As we implement the changes, we will do so in such a manner as to protect our Marines, our civilian employees, and their careers," he said.
—Public Affairs,
HQMC

Marine families

Commanding generals and officers gathered at Quantico, Va., Dec. 2-4 to

discuss ideas to help installation commanders ensure that effective, quality support programs and services are in place for their Marines, Sailors, and family members.

Participants at the Installation Commanders' Forum received input from various military and Department of Defense personnel.

Lieutenant Gen. Carol A. Mutter, assistant chief of staff, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, cited several positive Marine programs and events, including First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's recent visit to Quantico's Child Development Center, the implementation of a Semper Fit program at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., and the Single Marine program established at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

Also high on Mutter's priority list for discussion were Marine Corps Quality of Life programs and how they can be improved.

"We have to take care of our Marines, Sailors, and their families so they can focus on the real mission," she said.

Discussions ranged from family and quality of life services currently available, to the "Quality of Life Feedback Process," which allows members to voice their opinions on quality of life topics.

Mutter also cited the "Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills," program, better known as L.I.N.K.S., the Village Concept, and Semper Fit program as all having a positive impact on the Corps in the short time they have been available.

Commanders also provided feedback on the merger of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Support Activity with Manpower Department's Human Resources Division. They discussed the short- and long-range goals and the impact the merger will have on service delivery.

Forum participants also gave their input on several issues raised during the discussion, including funding for Quality of Life programs and which Quality of Life programs take priority.

—Cpl. Jim Goodwin, MCB Quantico

TRICARE for you

For assistance in locating your local TRICARE Service Center, call your TRICARE regional office at the following telephone numbers:

Southeast Region: (South Carolina, Georgia, and Eastern Florida) (800) 444-5445.

GulfSouth Region: (Florida Panhandle, eastern Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, small area of Arkansas, and Tennessee) (800) 444-5445.

Southwest Region: (western Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and most of Texas) (800) 406-2832.



Lt. Gen. Carol A. Mutter talks about quality of life issues during the three-day Installation Commanders Forum at Quantico, Va.

Desert States Region: (western Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada): (888) TRIWEST or 874-9378.

North Central Region: (Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, most of Idaho, Utah, and Kansas): (888) TRIWEST or 874-9378.

Region 9: (Southern California, Yuma, and Arizona): (800) 242-6788.

Golden Gate Region: (northern California): (800) 242-6788.

Northwest Region: (Washington, western Idaho, and Oregon) (800) 982-0032.

Hawaii/Pacific Region: (Hawaii) (800) 242-6788.

—From Navy Medical News Service

Stripes for bars

If you are a high-caliber enlisted Marine with aspirations of becoming an officer, the timing could not be better. The Marine Corps has launched a campaign to increase and promote enlisted to officer commissioning opportunities. The Enlisted Commissioning Program and Meritorious Commissioning Program are solid commissioning

sources that provide great opportunities for Marines who already possess varying amounts of college.

This "Grow Our Own" initiative provides a rich source of talent and demonstrated leadership to the officer corps. For the program to be effective, it must be revitalized at the local command level. With everyone's attention and honest effort, the programs will continue to be vital commissioning sources as the Corps enters the 21st century. Commanders are requested to screen their unit records for Marines who meet the qualifications and then mentor them through the process.

The basic eligibility criteria for ECP and MCP includes, but is not limited to, a minimum score of 115 on the Electrical Composite portion of the Armed Forces Classification Test, or a minimum combined math and verbal score of 1000 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Applicants must be less than 30 years of age on the date of appointment, and physically qualified for appointment to commissioned grade.

The ECP is for Marines with a four-year baccalaureate degree, while Marines

with an associate degree or an equivalent of 60 semester hours of college credit may be nominated for the MCP. Marines commissioned through the MCP must complete their bachelor's degree either on their own time, or through a degree completion program, to ensure they remain competitive with their peers for augmentation and promotion. Marine Corps Order 1040.43 contains the eligibility requirements and application procedures for ECP/MCP.

Applications for ECP/MCP are submitted to a selection board which convenes three times per year. ALMAR 269/97 announced the selection board schedule and contains the application deadlines, board convening dates, and Officer Candidates School training dates.

The points of contact at the Marine Corps Recruiting Command are Mrs. Barbara J. Shapiro or Mrs. Jeanette Northan at DSN: 224-1756/1017 or commercial (703) 614-1756/1017. Questions may also be submitted via e-mail to (shapiro@hqi.usmc.mil or northanj@hqi.usmc.mil).

—*Marine Corps Recruiting Command*

Housing allowance changes

The Department of Defense began phasing in a new housing allowance for servicemembers, Jan. 1. The Basic Allowance for Housing is a monthly payment, replacing separately paid Variable Housing Allowance and Basic Allowance for Quarters. BAH is based on civilian rental costs by paygrade, dependency status, and location.

The new allowance provides service members housing compensation based on comparable civilian costs of housing. Civilian comparability considers both salary and location.

Members will see one monthly dollar amount for BAH — in place of VHA and BAQ — on their leave and earnings statements. The VHA offset was eliminated along with the annual recertification of housing expenses that required members to show lease or mortgage documents annually. Additionally, members are no longer asked to participate in the annual VHA housing cost survey. Finally, rate protection was

expanded to apply to all individuals, even if their actual housing costs decrease. This eliminates a technicality that caused some members, mostly homeowners and sharers, to lose rate protection.

Members should not see dramatic increases in housing allowances because changes will be phased in over a six-year period, based on budget considerations and the desire to keep reductions gradual.

Compared to the past VHA plus BAQ, the new housing allowance increases in expensive housing locations around the nation, and decreases in some low cost housing areas. Generally speaking, junior members are expected to receive increases at most locations.

A grandfathering provision or rate protection, prevents individuals from experiencing reductions in housing allowances as long as their status (location, grade, and dependency status) remains unchanged.

A primary reason for the new allowance was that the old housing allowance system was unable to keep up with housing costs and members were being forced to pay more out-of-pocket costs than originally intended. Current out-of-pocket costs have increased to about 20 percent (compared to the intended 15 percent) of the nationwide average by paygrade. Under the new system, increases are tied to housing cost growth, thus protecting members from any further erosion of housing benefits over time.

The new BAH is designed to be inherently fair because the typical service member of a given grade and dependency status, living in the same level of housing, will have the same monthly out-of-pocket dollar expense at all locations in the U.S.

For example, if the out-of-pocket cost for a typical E-5 with dependents is \$100, the typical member of that grade can expect to pay \$100 out-of-pocket for housing no matter where assigned (high, medium, or low cost housing area). Of course, lower pay grades will have lower out-of-pocket costs than senior grades.

If a member chooses a bigger or more expensive residence than is typical

for the grade or location, that person will have larger out-of-pocket expenses. The opposite is true for individuals who choose to occupy smaller or less expensive residences.

The BAH employs a civilian-based method of measuring comparable housing costs that is vastly superior to the old VHA housing survey that measured members' spending on housing. Under the old system, members who skimped on housing and then reported low expenditures, only served to reinforce, or drive down, already low allowances.

How are new rates set? BAH employs local price data of rental properties based on the typical housing characteristics of civilians with comparable salary levels. For comparison purposes, a civilian salary equals the sum of military basic pay, BAQ, BAS, plus tax advantage. Rates of BAH distinguish between with-dependents and without-dependents.

The with-dependents housing compensation is based on comparable civilians using average family size.

The new allowance is not intended to guarantee that members will be able to find and afford housing that matches what they would get if they lived in government quarters. BAH is based on civilian standards, considering the housing choices made by civilians of comparable income in each location.

Runzheimer International collected nationwide housing cost data that is used to compute BAH. Founded in 1933, Runzheimer is a recognized leader in the field of collecting cost of living data in the United States and around the world. Currently, the firm serves over 2,000 businesses and governments worldwide and is renowned for its accurate and reliable research. Runzheimer's private sector clients include over 60 percent of the Fortune 500 companies.

Its government clients include the DoD, General Services Administration, Department of State, Office of Personnel Management, Internal Revenue Service, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

—*Maj. J.L. Terry*

Around the Corps

North Carolina

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION

CHERRY POINT — Gilda A. Jackson, a native of Columbus, Ohio, made history last October when she became the first African-American female Marine to be promoted to colonel. Jackson, who currently serves with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, is slated to become the executive officer of the Naval Aviation Depot here.

Jackson entered the Marine Corps in October 1968 at age 18. "From the time I was old enough to vote and make adult decisions, I've been in the Marine Corps, so it's very special to me," she said.

Jackson completed recruit training, reported to Supply Administration School, and spent three years as an enlisted Marine.

She then graduated from Ohio Dominican College and was commissioned a second lieutenant in December 1975. Her assignments have included: supply officer, Station Operations and Engineering



Col. Gilda Jackson

Squadron, MCAS El Toro, Calif.; Group Aviation Supply Support Center officer, Marine Aircraft Group-12, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan; and fiscal officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Tustin, Calif.

After graduating from Amphibious Warfare School in June 1983, Jackson reported to Headquarters & Maintenance Squadron, MAG-13, MCAS El Toro, Calif. She went on to serve with Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron 301, MAG-16, as the group supply officer. She graduated from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at MCB Quantico, Va., and reported to the

Virginia

Spouse Honored for Military Contributions

ARLINGTON — A Marine spouse from Marine Corps Base Hawaii was recently recognized at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va., for her patriotic contributions to the local military and civilian communities.

Peggy Milliman represented the Corps as one of four individuals who received the Very Important Patriot award during the National Military Family Association's annual luncheon. She received a plaque for her active volunteer role in improving the quality of life for the Marines, Sailors, and their families living on MCB Hawaii.

"I feel real special in having won this award," she said. "The enlisted and officers wives nominated me, each not knowing that the other was nominating me."

Peggy is a paraplegic as a result of a domestic violence incident she suffered in her first marriage. Despite this challenge, she contributes to the quality of life for both the military and civilian community in Hawaii. She is now married to Capt. John C. Milliman, a public affairs officer.

Peggy, from Hyattsville, Md., volunteers at local schools as both a

parent member of the Kalaheo High School Technology Committee and as the base representative to the Kalaheo School/Community Based Management, the governing body of the school. While a member of the Technology Committee, she and her husband began and oversaw a year-long program that gives students internet publishing and design experience while creating web sites for local businesses.

The former Miss Wheelchair America is an advocate for handicapped issues and domestic violence awareness and prevention. She is organizing an on-base domestic violence awareness event to be held this year. This event will unite the community and the Marines against domestic violence.

She also serves

as the chair of the Base Action Committee, a board initiated by the base commanding general, Brig. Gen. David Bice. This board addresses quality of life issues on the base. Peggy oversees and coordinates numerous quality of life projects. Most recently, she directed the committee to start a base tour program to

Staff Sgt. Arturo Prioletta



Capt. John C. Milliman, Peggy Milliman, Lt. Gen. Carol A. Mutter and Col. James M. Mutter, USMC (Ret.) at the National Military Family Association luncheon.

Navy Aviation Supply Office Philadelphia, for duty as the F/A-18 Weapons System Manager. She was promoted to lieutenant colonel in August 1993.

Jackson went on to command Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13, 3rd MAW, MCAS Yuma, Ariz., in April 1993. She then reported to the Joint Advanced Strike Technology Program Office for assignment as the Marine support requirements officer. After being selected to the Air War College in 1996, she was assigned to the school at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala. Following graduation, she reported to the 2nd MAW. She was selected for

familiarize local school teachers with Marines and civilians who work on the base.

"I enjoy working on the committee because Gen. Bice cares about the people there and he pushes the issues," she said.

Since the Millimans came to Hawaii two-and-a-half years ago, Peggy says she feels she has accomplished all the goals she set out for herself — so far. Two of her ongoing key initiatives in Hawaii are improving accessibility for physically challenged individuals, and improving academic achievement in the local school system. "The accessibility issue was hard to crack," she said.

Things never slow down for the altruistic volunteer. She had to put on hold plans to help in the Thanksgiving and Christmas basket program on Hawaii to attend the awards ceremony, but said she was able to put the trip to good use. While in Washington, she took time to meet with several family-oriented organizations who were also here for the VIP awards.

The VIP award is endorsed by the National Military Family Association to recognize the work of any military person or family members who volunteer to improve their local community's quality of life.

—Staff Sgt. Arturo Prioletta

colonel in February 1997.

"This means a lot," said Jackson. "When you're 17 or 18 years old, you never think about what it is you're actually going to do for the rest of your life. As I look back, I wouldn't change a thing. I've learned a lot in the Marines."

Jackson explained that there are a lot more opportunities available for minorities now than in the past. "I think the armed services have been a leader in equality and providing opportunities for minorities."

—Sgt. Jeff Middleton

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT — The Explosive Ordnance Disposal team here recently helped support the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources' Underwater Archeology Unit in the exploration of a pirate ship wreck.

Using their Golden MK-32 X-ray machine, Marine EOD technicians developed images after they zapped fossilized ocean-bottom artifacts that are possibly from *Queen Anne's Revenge*, a flag ship of the infamous pirate Blackbeard's fleet.

"We used the EOD Marines due to their location to the site and their experience," said Leslie Samuel Bright, underwater archeologist.

The underwater archaeology unit wanted the masses of rocks and barnacles X-rayed, hoping to define objects that were preserved or castings of now disintegrated artifacts.

During the process, X-rays revealed some of the clumps of ocean floor contained pieces of cloth with what seemed to be small pellets of bird shot. There was also evidence of ballast rock, glass and ceramic shards, as well as non-ferrous metal objects.

In addition to X-raying, the Marines were available to assist in case black

powder still existed within the artifacts.

"The longer black powder sits, the more sensitive it becomes," said Chief Warrant Officer Edward L. Scott, Jr., Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 EOD officer. "Although black powder is desynthesized when it is wet, once it dries out again, it is still as sensitive — if not more."

Because the wreck is 270 years old, and is submerged in 23 feet of water, the salt water and "father time" have had an effect. Members of the exploration team are still trying to preserve the area and have excavated only a few select pieces for evaluation.

—Cpl. Nicole E. Ables

Maine

BATH — The *USS Higgins* (DDG 76) was christened and launched here Oct. 4.

The guided missile destroyer is named after deceased Marine Col. William Richard (Rich) Higgins.

His widow and the ship's sponsor, retired Lt. Col. Robin L. Higgins,

Don S. Montgomery



The Navy's newest guided missile destroyer, the *USS Higgins*, named after former Marine Col. Rich Higgins.

performed the traditional breaking of the bottle of champagne across the bow of the ship, naming her *USS Higgins*.

Higgins was kidnapped by pro-Iranian terrorists Feb. 17, 1988. At the time, he was working in Lebanon as the Chief, Observer Group Lebanon and the senior U.S. military observer with the

U.S. Truce Supervision Organization in the Middle East.

Later, it was determined that Higgins had been killed, but verification of when or how he died was never accomplished. He was officially declared dead July 6, 1990.

Higgins' career had seen many special duty assignments, two combat tours in Vietnam, and numerous awards, including the Bronze Star. He was killed by terrorists for political reasons.

The ship, which now proudly bears Higgins' name, is the 26th Arleigh Burke Class ship out of 50 authorized by Congress. This class of ship is equipped with the AEGIS combat weapons system, which combines space-age weapons, radar, and communications technology into one platform.

The *USS Higgins* carries a crew of 322 Sailors and 21 officers. She is 505 feet long, has a beam of 66 feet, and displaces 8,580 tons fully loaded. The speed of the *Higgins* exceeds 30 knots.

Commissioning of the *USS Higgins* is scheduled for 1999.

—Sgt. Kurt M. Sutton

Virginia

ARLINGTON — Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sgt. Glenda Burley represented today's enlisted women in the military late last year during the dedication of the Women In Military Service to America

Maryland

AAAV Test Rig Put Through Final Water Testing

NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER — Tests here came to a close last fall on the water-borne test version of the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle, the Marine Corps' replacement for its nearly 30-year-old AAV7A1 technology.

Testing began last July on the AAAV's hydrodynamic test rig. During the evaluations, the rig reached water speeds in excess of 29 knots on the Patuxent River.

The mock-up, which is four-fifths the size of the actual AAAV, was most recently tested for transom-angle configurations. The transom flap is located in the back of the vehicle and was being adjusted for the test rig to hit top water speeds. This was the flap's fourth version tested.

"The attitude of the vehicle (in the water) is directly tied to the flap," said Philip J. Deegan, General Dynamics test director. The angle of the transom flap determines the speed of the vehicle, he said.

Several lessons were learned during testing. "Longer is better. Wider

is unstable. More power is best," Deegan stated. The power for the HTR is currently supplied by a standard engine; the actual power plant that the AAAV will use for its water propulsion system has not yet been determined.

In addition to the transom flap tests, all other testable systems have been evaluated.

Some of those tests have included:

- ◆ Weight distribution tests: Weights were moved around inside the vehicle to examine how the vehicle responds.
- ◆ Bow plane tests: Deployed hydraulically on the front of the vehicle in its water mode, the bow plane allows the HTR to rise above the water while moving to achieve greater speeds. These tests told engineers how much additional surface should be used on the bow plane and the precise angle necessary to achieve those high speeds.
- ◆ Chine flap tests: These are deployable flaps that cover the tracks of the AAAV in the water-borne mode. Extensive studies were conducted to ensure these flaps can endure the pounding water and function properly by

Staff Sgt. Arturo Prioletta



Master Gunnery Sgt. Glenda Burley is flanked by Vice President Al Gore (far left) and Defense Secretary William S. Cohen (far right) during the Women In Military Service for America Memorial dedication ceremony.

memorial.

Burley, a Blythewood, S.C., native who joined the Corps in 1977, told the audience she had joined the Marine Corps partly to assist her parents, brothers, and sisters. "The memorial is wonderful and well-deserved," said the enlisted advisor to the Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va. "The majority of women have to give 150 percent just to be accepted."

Nearly 30,000 people

lined Memorial Drive here, to witness the unveiling of the nation's first major memorial to the nearly two million women who have served. The WIMSA Memorial stands at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

"It's a reminder that we don't recruit women as a special favor," said Defense Secretary William S. Cohen. "It's not for nicety, but for necessity."

On the evening of the dedication, a candlelight march and service of remembrance were held on Memorial Drive, winding from the Lincoln Memorial to the Women's Memorial, which officially opened to the public Oct. 20.

Although the memorial was in the



Sgt. Kurt Sutton

will be two complete prototypes incorporating the water and land versions of the vehicle.

The AAAV, when complete, will move on land at the same speed and possess the same maneuverability as an M1A1 tank, complete Marine Corps over-the-horizon amphibious assault missions from distances of up to 25 miles from ship to shore, carry a 30 mm cannon, and transport 18 combat-loaded Marines and

The Marine Corps' Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle Hydrodynamic Test Rig is lowered into the water at Naval Test Facility, Patuxent River, Md. The AAAV is scheduled for fielding to the Marine Corps by 2006.

three crew members. Full nuclear, biological, and chemical protection is also incorporated into the vehicle's design.

When the Marine Corps begins taking possession of the AAAV in 2006, it will complete the "triple threat" package of the AAAV, MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, and the Landing Craft, Air Cushioned.

By 2006, the Marine Corps will be better equipped to fulfill its "Forward ... From the Sea" requirements.

—Sgt. Kurt Sutton

covering the tracks and increasing the bottom plane surface.

Data from these kinds of tests are collected and evaluated for optimal performance configurations, said Deegan. This ensures that the AAAV will meet or exceed any future requirements the Marine Corps may have.

"We'll be keeping this vehicle for so long," said Maj. Keith Moore, "that we have to be able to enhance it in the future." Moore, the assistant operations officer for tests and evaluation for the AAAV program, said that by 1999, there

works for nearly 13 years, the real building blocks were the thousands of women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, from World War I to present.

—Staff Sgt. Arturo Priolella

Hawaii

MARINE FORCES PACIFIC, CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII — A seven-year-old Pearl City school girl recognizes Marine Cpl. Joshua Q. Scott as the primary reason for her Nov. 20 successful escape from a would-be abductor.

The Lehua Elementary School student (whose name was not released) avoided possible abduction by instinctively reacting to the dangerous situation from things she learned in Scott's Drug Abuse Resistance Education classes.



Staff Sgt. Matt Hevezi

Cpl. Joshua Q. Scott is interviewed by the media. Scott's D.A.R.E. instruction may have saved a Lehua Elementary student from abduction.

Scott is a military policeman from Arvada, Colo., currently assigned to Camp Smith.

Officials said the child left school around 1:15 p.m. and was approached by a male stranger who told her he was sent by her father to pick her up from school and take her home. Suspicious, she asked the stranger, "What's the password?" The password system was taught to the girl and her classmates as part of the D.A.R.E. program.

When the stranger didn't respond with the correct password, which was pre-established between the child and her parents, she pulled away from him, screamed, and ran for help. Once she arrived safely at her after-school daycare center, she shared the ordeal and description of the suspect with her caregiver, who quickly called the Honolulu Police.

Police notified Lehua officials of the incident and gave them the description. That's when some school staff members searched the campus area and noticed a man who fit the description walking to his car. The suspect drove away, but not before his license plate number was written down and passed to police. The suspect was quickly apprehended.

The young student remembered "Officer Scott" when asked about the incident and said it was his instruction she remembered from school. That instruction may have saved her life, Scott said Friday, a day after the incident.

When Scott reported to work Friday morning, he found calls on his answering machine from local television news stations asking about his D.A.R.E. instruction and informing him of the happy ending.

"The time and effort is all worth it," Scott said. "It gives me the satisfaction of teaching kids how to be safe. Seeing a positive impact on others is fulfilling."

Scott has been active in local schools with the Adopt-A-School and D.A.R.E. programs since his arrival here last May when he was selected from

Around the Corps

among 14 other Marine military policemen to join the D.A.R.E. program.

During his weekly school visits, Scott presents lessons on personal safety, peer pressure, self esteem, and drug resistance.

"The classes help them to be aware of their surroundings, realize what's going on, and follow the rules of personal safety — like using a password, walking to school in a group, and not accepting gifts from strangers," he said.

Scott said he sees definite improvements each time he visits the schools. "At the beginning, my students feel vulnerable, but by the end of the course they realize they play an important part in their own personal protection."

Scott's lessons have real impact on the students because he's built a special bond with them and developed their trust.

"He has good rapport and interaction with the students," said Staff Sgt. Stephone R. McCall, physical security chief here. "They're enthusiastic about learning and they really cling on to what he has to say. The case of the Lehua student is a good example of just how much they do listen."

Scott was proud of his student's reaction to the dangerous situation she faced and was glad she was unharmed. "She was as smart as I could have asked her to be," he said. "I couldn't ask for more."

—Cpl. Melinda Weathers

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, OAHU — Drug Abuse Resistance Education kept a 7-year-old Pearl City girl from harm's way

Lanikai Elementary first grader Claire Little takes time out to hug D.A.R.E. representative McGruff.



Lance Cpl. Barry Proctor

last November and might do the same for Windward elementary students with help from military police here.

The program educates children on the effects of drug and alcohol abuse in today's society and "dares" youth to stay away from them, said Sgt Shawn M. Nicholson, a military policeman and the D.A.R.E. officer serving Mokapu Elementary on base.

"We mostly discuss decision making," said Nicholson. "Kids are sometimes talked into using illegal substances or alcohol by the influence of

peer pressure and the media. We try to help kids make the right choices and tell them the consequences of making the wrong ones."

Nicholson heads the D.A.R.E. program at Mokapu Elementary. The program offers a 17-week curriculum for all fifth graders there.

"Officer Shawn (Nicholson) teaches us not to do drugs and tells us stories about people he knew who got in trouble because of them," said Chris Piper, a fifth grade D.A.R.E. student at Mokapu.

One way to gain the students'

Kentucky

1st Tank Battalion Crew Wins TigerComp '97

FORT KNOX — After the last 120 mm round pierced the target and the smoke cleared, a California-based Marine tank crew claimed top honors as the deadliest tank crew in the Corps at the second annual Marine Corps Tank Gunnery Competition last fall at Ft. Knox, Ky.

The four-man crew from Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., out-gunned three top-notch crews representing the other Marine Corps tank battalions to capture the Gunnery Sergeant Robert H. McCard Trophy.

"We were confident," said winning tank commander Sgt. Jeff Veneman. "We came into this with the feeling we could win."

Placing behind 1st Tanks for the McCard Cup were crews from: Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Tank Battalion, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Company A, 4th Tank Battalion, San Diego, Calif.; and Company B, 8th Tank Battalion, Syracuse, N.Y.

Also known as Tiger Competition, the event was instituted last year to promote excellence in tank gunnery and camaraderie within the Marine Corps armor community.

Last year a Marine Reserve crew from Company C, Boise, Idaho, took home the trophy for 4th Tank Battalion.

"The fact that out in Twentynine Palms we have so much opportunity to train gave us an edge," said Veneman, a 30-year-old tanker from Modesto, Calif.

"Out there, we live, eat and breathe these vehicles and constantly hone our skills."

They also spent many extra hours training in a Mobile Conduct of Fire Trainer.

The trainer is a computerized mock-up of the right half of an M1A1 Abrams turret, where the tank commander and gunner sit. The simulator can be programmed to display an array of potential threat targets and friendlies, allowing the tank commander and gunner to practice rules of engagement, target acquisition, fire commands and tank gunnery.

Preparing for TigerComp proved more challenging for reserve crews.

"We didn't get much live-fire time because we just didn't have the rounds," explained Sgt. Thomas Maranda, tank commander for 4th Tank Battalion crew, which placed third. "We spent a lot of time in 'the box,'" he said, referring to the trainer.

attention is to bring McGruff to school to help demonstrate some of the tools police and MPs use to combat drugs, such as working dogs.

"We use the dogs to get the children's attention and it helps us get our message across," said Sgt. Jon Jerome, the chief dog trainer at MCB Hawaii Military Police Department.

Nicholson works closely with local schools and is the only certified D.A.R.E. coordinator at MPD. But involvement with the D.A.R.E. program is part of every MP's job description.

"All of the MPs are pretty much involved," said Sgt. Robert Larez. "We showcase all the things we do to let children understand what we do and show them we are here to protect them."

The program may center around drug use prevention, but it also allows MPs the chance to discuss with the children about staying away from gangs, violence, and how to handle situations which may arise, said Nicholson.

"My parents think D.A.R.E. is really good," said Jessie Day, another fifth grader. "It's never boring and we always

learn. It's real fun when we do skits and stuff like that."

Right now, funding at Mokapu only covers the fifth grade D.A.R.E. program, but Nicholson is working to implement a third grade program and a refresher course for the sixth graders.

"We need to try to reach every student," said Nicholson. "In the future, I would like to get the whole school involved."

"It's an effective tool," he said, "for keeping kids out of trouble."
—Lance Cpl. Barry Proctor

Gunnery Sgt. J. D. Moore



Staff Sgt. Larry Nicholson, master gunner for Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, discusses muzzle bore sight device measurements with Sgt. Jeff Veneman as the crew prepares for TigerComp '97.

But even finding time for "virtual tanking" was not easy for the reservists.

Maranda is a deputy U.S. Marshal in the Southern District of California. His gunner, Cpl. Peter M. Lengyel, attends classes at Mesa College in San Diego and works 35 hours per week.

Still, they squeezed about 40 hours of night and weekend MCOFT training into the month prior to TigerComp.

After two days of bore sighting and practice runs on Yano Multipurpose Range Complex here, the Marine tankers were ready to compete. At stake for each

crew were their personal pride, battalion honor, and a year's worth of bragging rights.

One-by-one, the crews maneuvered their turbine-powered tanks down the \$20 million computerized Yano Range. Thunderous cracks and a cacophony of machine gun fire reverberated through the range's valley as crews, at times wearing gas masks, engaged pop-up and moving targets simulating enemy infantry, tanks and armored personnel carriers. During the engagements, Army master gunners judged the crews on their

decision-making abilities, cohesiveness and gunnery proficiency in the world's most sophisticated tank.

"We were looking primarily for target hits — how long it takes to kill a target," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Dirbas, one of the competition judges. "We also judged the crews on how well they performed their crew duties," said Dirbas, who is the gunnery team chief at the Master Gunner Branch here.

A unique through-sight video system provided an audiovisual record of some of the crews' practice and competition runs on the range. The system records exactly what the gunner sees through his gun sight while acquiring and engaging targets.

"From a competitive standpoint, every one of these crews is a winner just for getting here," said Lt. Col. Jeff Wilkinson, commanding officer of Ft. Knox's Marine Detachment. "Each battalion has 58 tank crews, and these Marines are the best in their battalions. That's quite an accomplishment."

Wilkinson hopes to see TigerComp eventually move to the new Urban Warfare Training Center currently under construction here. The range is expected to be operational in late 1998 or early 1999.

—Gunnery Sgt. J. D. Moore

Perhaps You've Seen Her Before

Meet a WW II Marine whose journey took her through the early days of women in the Corps.

By Pfc. Angela Strong
Special to Marines

The casual observer probably would not pick out the tiny, dark-haired lady with the constant smile as a former Marine corporal.

Alongside thousands of former and present day service women, Veronica Agnes Byrnes Bradley alternated between laughter, cheering, and a few quiet tears at the dedication of the Women In Military Services for America Memorial last October.

However, even in casual conversation, she mentions the Corps so often and with such enthusiasm, that one cannot help but know Byrnes Bradley is a Marine.

In March 1943, 21-year-old Veronica Byrnes was on lunch break from her job crushing crystals for use in radios. She noticed a small poster in the corner of a shop window, a young woman about her own age, in a dress white uniform hat.

It was a recruiting poster, meant to encourage young women to help the war effort by joining the Marine Corps Reserve.

"I was curious," she said. "I had a few more minutes left for lunch, so I went inside. The next thing I knew, I was a Marine recruit at boot camp."

Boot camp was at Hunter College in the Bronx, N.Y. The Marine Corps was so unprepared for the wartime influx of

women, that Veronica and her fellow recruits were housed in apartment buildings, and their uniforms were completed only 24 hours prior to graduation.

The young women found the same mixture of confusion and excitement at their military occupational specialty schools. Unprepared for the surge of females at Camp Lejeune, N.C., base officials housed the ladies in male barracks. Always up for adventure, young Veronica furthered her education just moments after her arrival.

"We walked for hours and hours. Go here. Okay, stand there. So, when we arrived at what was to be our new home, we just wanted to rest. I walked into the restroom and was amazed. I quickly ran out to tell the other girls to come see the foot wash that the military had obviously created just for us. I did mention that I was curious as to how we were to get our feet up there."

Over the din of good-natured laughter, another young lady told Veronica what she had mistaken for a foot bath. She had never seen a men's

Courtesy of Veronica Agnes Byrnes Bradley



A cherished newspaper article from Byrnes Bradley's scrapbook, dated Oct. 17, 1943, shows a then-21-year-old Pvt. Byrnes holding a puppy dog (photo on right).

urinal before. The experience was one of many “firsts” that were not always quite so amusing.

The young women were not readily accepted everywhere by their male counterparts and resentment was sometimes abundant. However, the young ladies met each hurdle eagerly and did their best to adhere to the often used saying “Adapt and overcome.”

“We were so eager. One afternoon, they told us to get a quart of prop wash from the hangar and, being eager to please, we diligently searched for it. It was nearly 40 minutes before we realized that prop wash was the run-off condensation from the propellers, and they were playing a joke on us.”

There were good times, of course, like after hours beers in “slopchutes” where the beer was kept cold in huge tubs of water.

“When you were through with your beer you just peeled the label off and stuck it on the wall.”

There was also dinner at the Commodore Hotel in Manhattan, N.Y., when big band leader Vaughn Monroe announced on stage that the women in the curious, but attractive uniforms were female Marines.

The regular duties Veronica and the other women Marine reservists were expected to perform included everything from administration to aviation mechanics on F4U fighter planes and SNJ trainers. In addition to those duties, the first contingent of female Marines were heavily scrutinized. They were the subjects of numerous articles and magazine layouts, as well as models for recruiting posters.

Among the hundreds of women, one young lady stood out. Posed with a clipboard next to one of the planes she had recently been trained to repair, Veronica Agnes Byrnes embodied the type of woman the Corps was endeavoring to enlist. An artist captured that look and the Marine Corps used it to recruit other young ladies, just as “Ronnie” had been recruited.

With the end of the war, the women were quickly moved to administrative positions as the men began returning to the States.

Byrnes left the Corps and, like many of her fellow Marines, got married. She had six children. Working three jobs, she

raised four of them as a single parent. She now has 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

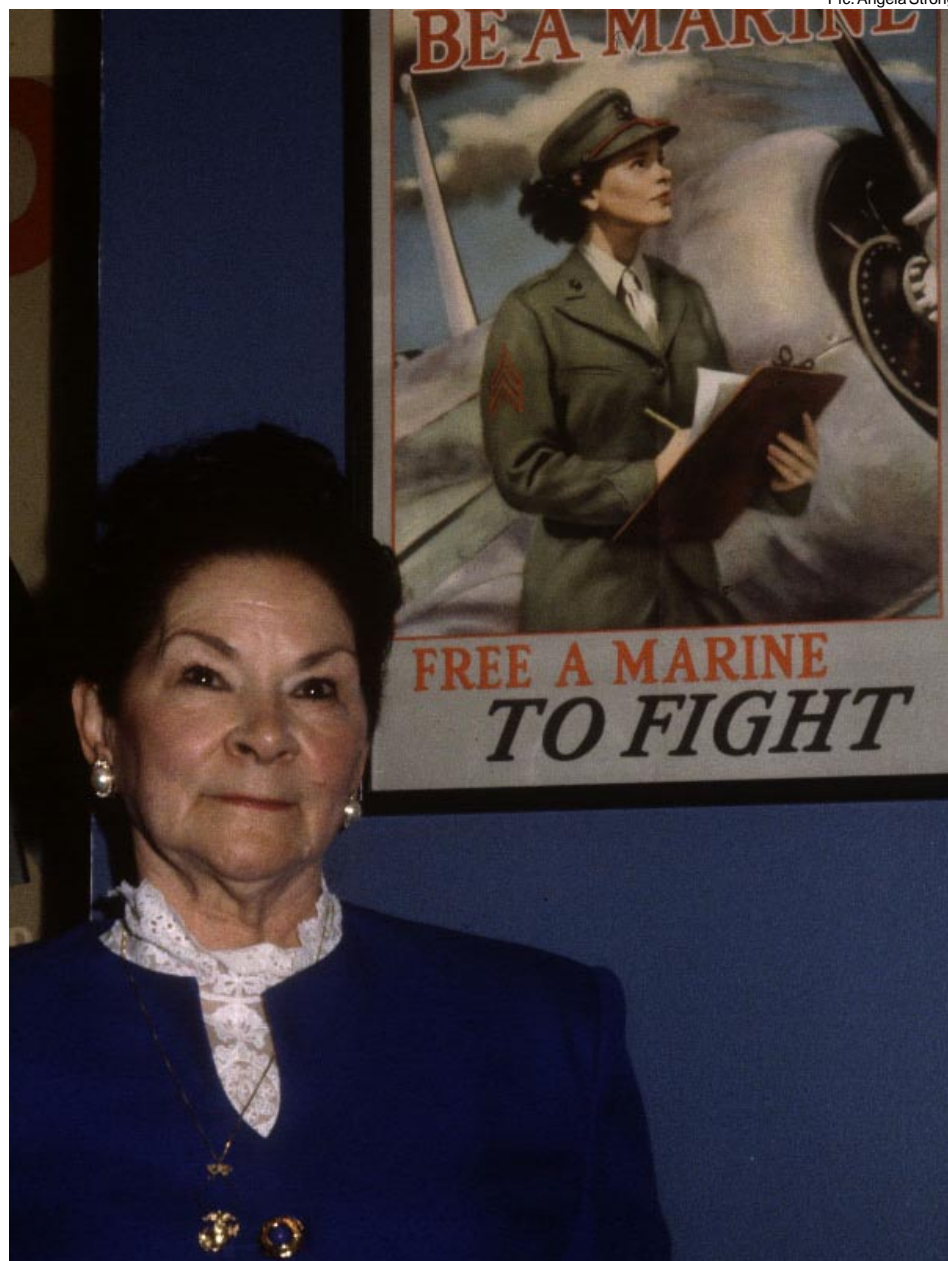
Veronica worked as a customer service representative for a telephone company in New York and several other receptionist-type jobs. However, her interest in theater prompted her to become involved in the Jackson Heights Salon Players, where she was both player and stage manager. She then moved on to stage managing off-Broadway productions. She is still very involved in theater and is presently preparing for a benefit variety show in which she will be playing the part of one of the singing

groups from WWII, the Andrews sisters.

She believes that being a Marine shaped the type of person she is today. Among her most prized possessions is a gold pendant which she constantly wears. It is a tiny Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, no larger than a thumbnail. She plans to leave it to one of her grandchildren.

There is also a scrapbook. It is a battered bit of Plexiglas held together with little metal fasteners made for her by one of the male Marines she befriended during her time in service. The pages are so fragile that they fall into fragments, even when carefully handled. But inside are the most amazing pictures of former

Pfc. Angela Strong



Veronica Agnes Byrnes Bradley stands in front of the recruiting poster that she posed for during World War II.

servicemen and women, both at work and at play. Many of the people in the photos are gone now, but they will live forever in Ronnie's scrapbook. Each picture has a meticulously handwritten caption that tells the story in her own words — from boot camp to discharge.

Today, among the collection of modern-day posters hanging in recruiting offices all over the country, one can still find copies of historical posters such as the one that drew the attention of young Veronica Byrnes.

Fifty-four years after Veronica enlisted, another young girl walked into a recruiter's office in Lake City, Fla. Included in the numerous posters adorning the walls of Staff Sgt.



Byrnes Bradley enjoying her time as a young Marine.

Schofield's office are two of women. The first is a glossy picture of three Marines in their dress blues. The other poster is of

21-year-old Ronnie Byrnes.

Training has changed a little. Boot camp is about six weeks longer, not to mention the Crucible and Marine Combat Training. However, there is a "band of sisterhood" that includes not only the young women of today's Corps, but those who came first and made it possible for women to call themselves Marines.

When told that she was an inspiration to Marines and that much was learned from her, Mrs. Byrnes Bradley replied, "I've learned just as much from you all. It was just all so much fun ... a grand adventure.

Is that how you see it?"

Yes, Mrs. Bradley, I believe it is. □

The last entry (below) in Byrnes Bradley's scrapbook, says goodbye to the Corps.

Courtesy of Veronica Agnes Byrnes Bradley

Conclusion

And so my book ends as did my life in the Marine Corps, Women Reserve. Daily occurrences and surroundings will never be the same nor can it ever be duplicated.

My interests must turn to something new and different and so here is where the most interesting part of my life must come to a close, and where I'll enter into my new adventures — no doubt putting forth every effort to make it just half as bright and educational as the last three years have been.

Behind me are friends and places that I may never actually see again — yet in my mind, I'll undoubtedly turn, over and over again the picture of them..... trying to hold on to some part of the past..... always willing to climb into the past knowing I can return into yesterday through thoughts and mental pictures. I only regret that all this was brought about because of a National Emergency — one hardly anyone can forget.

So I only close out this part of my life now because the need of women in places other than nurses is no longer necessary.... the war has ended and Victory belongs to the brave. Our American Boys.

So for me — the United States Marine Corps, Women's Reserve has come to an

End

Pilot Soars Through Life's Goals at Mach Speed

He finished at the top of his class in college and flight school. Is Congress next?

By Sgt. Mark E. Bradley
MCAS Beaufort, S.C.

Playing professional football was once a dream for a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 pilot here. But after an unsuccessful tryout for the Dallas Cowboys in 1990, the southern Tennessee native had another dream to pursue. It was one he had prepared for throughout his life just as intensely as football — to become a Marine Corps fighter pilot.

His dreams of flying began in the mid-70s when he visited Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S.C., to see the Blue Angels flight demonstration team. It was here the wide-eyed 8-year-old met Maj. Frank E. Petersen, an F-4 Phantom pilot who would eventually become the Marine Corps' first black lieutenant general. The meeting proved to be inspirational.

"I just happened to get a look in his cockpit and see his survival gear," said Capt. Ilya Road Ammons. "Out of his survival gear, I saw a pearl-handled, nickel-plated pistol and I said, 'This is what I want to do when I grow up. I want to be a Marine fighter pilot.'"

Growing up, Ammons excelled in school and sports. He received a four-year football scholarship to Tennessee State University where he played defensive back. His passion for the Marine Corps remained as strong as it did for football, however, and he entered the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class as a freshman in 1987. That summer, Ammons experienced what he considers a turning point in his life as a future Marine — his first trip to the Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Va.

"Prior to that, I had always felt like

an outsider looking in on the Marine Corps," he said. "After OCS, I finally felt like I was a part of the Marine Corps.."

Ammons graduated from TSU in 1991 with a degree in computer science and a minor in aviation technology.

Sgt. Mark E. Bradley



Captain Ilya Ammons performs a preflight safety inspection on his F/A-18 Hornet before a routine flight.

Though he didn't make the Dallas Cowboys, it was a possibility he had prepared for. "I didn't let it limit my future pursuits," he said.

Ammons was commissioned in May 1991 and completed The Basic School at Quantico in April 1992. The next stop was Pensacola Fla., where he graduated from primary flight school in the top two percent of his class. In March 1993,

he was selected to fly jets. He finished jet training in the top one percent of his class and was designated a Naval Aviator Oct. 14, 1994. He credits his successes to a constant pursuit of excellence and the morals instilled in him by his grandmother. She always told him education would open doors that would otherwise be closed, he said.

Ammons also has an appetite for competition.

"There's something about the competitive nature that draws us (Marine pilots) to this business," Ammons said. "Competition is good in that it raises the expectations in everyone. I always strive to be the best, even though it is not the case all the time. I find my weaknesses and strive to improve them."

Ammons has flown with the VMFA-115 Silver Eagles since July 1995. He also serves as the schedules officer in the operations section and is currently on his third six-month western Pacific deployment to Iwakuni, Japan.

At home, Ammons enjoys spending time with his wife, LoWanda, and their 4-year-old daughter, Jasmine. The couple is expecting their second child next month. He is also working on a master's degree through TSU.

After the Marine Corps, Ammons plans to return to Tennessee and run for Congress, he said. He does not aspire to be a career politician, but hopes his vote as a congressman will be able to make a positive change for the American people.

Although he considers himself an average guy, Ammons said a person can not perform at an average level and become a Marine fighter pilot or serve on the floor of Congress. □

Urban Warrior

The world is changing rapidly and Marines accustomed to operating on the beach, in the desert, mountains, and jungle must learn the ways of the city.



By Staff Sgt. Eric C. Tausch
HQMC, Washington

Sergeant Elias E. Sanchez lucked out in Somalia. As a lance corporal, the Marine machine-gunner had a squad leader who taught him the ropes of urban warfare learned while serving with Marine Corps Security Forces.

"I looked at footage of other Marines in Somalia," Sanchez said, as a brief but sharp look of concern crossed

Joseph C. Opacki



his face. "They might be dead if it got hotter than it did."

The world is changing rapidly and Marines accustomed to operating on the beach, in the desert, mountains, and jungle must learn the ways of the city. That is the line underscoring Urban Warrior — the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory's current advanced warfighting experiment that began last August.

Sanchez, 28, is now part of the experimental Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, or SPMAGTF(X), responsible for putting the warfighting lab's concepts and technologies to the test.

Over the course of 18 months, the Urban Warrior experiment will look into nearly every facet of military operations in the urban environment to make streetwise Marines for the Corps of the future. It is part two of the Corps' five-year experimentation plan known as Sea Dragon.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak conceived the Sea Dragon process to enhance naval and joint expeditionary capabilities, develop military innovation while meeting current commitments, and insert science and technology into the warfighters' arsenal.

In the past 50 years, a variety of factors have forced millions of people into the world's cities. According to a 1996 report from the World Health Organization, more than 60 percent of the world's population is expected to live in cities by 2025, compared to less than 45 percent in 1995. Nearly 70 percent of these cities are near the coastline or surrounding areas, known as "littorals," within reach of sea-based forces.

Exactly how Marines can best fight amidst innocent bystanders among the concrete jungles and steel-girded cliffs of the world is what Urban Warrior is all about.

While diverse city populations continue to grow and well-financed "bad guys" can easily purchase lethal weapons systems and high-end off-the-shelf technologies at a whim, the warfighting lab's job is to find out what Marines need to accomplish their mission. Marine Corps strategists do this by testing theories in realistic situations.

Urban Warrior began where the lab's first experiment, Hunter Warrior, ended

last year in Southern California. The first advanced warfighting experiment sought to increase a Marine expeditionary unit's area of influence and effectiveness. It looked at enhancing methods and technologies needed for Marines to shape the battlefield and reach their objective in low- to mid-intensity conflicts against a larger force.

Marine tacticians say the Urban Warrior experiment is the Corps' attempt to catch up with the wave of urbanization. Current tactics, doctrine, and technology emphasize the traditional, open battlefield with limited time spent in the "city." In contrast, of the 20 occasions where U.S. forces were committed abroad since 1977, 55 percent involved cities or combined rural and urban areas.

Some major challenges facing the lab in Urban Warrior deal with the dense urban infrastructure, which limits mobility, communications, and fire support, and makes location identification extremely difficult.

Like a science lab, the warfighting lab develops hypotheses, sets up experiments, collects data, analyzes results, and reports findings. But military experimentation rides the line between science and art with the inclusion of factors normally unwanted in controlled experiments; knowing the impact of human factors like creativity, innovation, and unpredictability is essential to military operations.

The lab emphasizes that experiments here begin without an end-state in mind, according to Col. James A. Lasswell, head of the lab's experimental operations.

The Urban Warrior experiment takes on a world that has become increasingly urban and dangerous. Most of the urban littoral will contain the classic ingredients for conflict. There will be social, cultural, religious, and tribal strife. Many areas will deal with scarce resources, including food and shelter. As populations grow and resources shrink, the chances for conflict will naturally rise. The World Health Organization says we can expect overcrowding and increased homelessness, accompanied by increases in alcohol and drug abuse, violence and aggression, and suicide.

Easy-to-acquire, user-friendly technology will add fuel to the fire. Lethal weapon systems today can be

Marines from 1st Battalion, 6th Marines demonstrate riot control techniques during the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory's three-block war demonstration at Quantico's combat town.

acquired by anyone with the money to buy them and the will to use them, according to Lasswell. Added to this is the explosion of easy-to-use advanced technologies. Urban Warrior acknowledges up front that potential foes, even in the most poverty-stricken parts of the world, may have very dangerous weapons, backed by very good technologies to use against Marines.

One of the keys to training Marines for the "concrete jungle" is teaching them to deal with the many events that can occur in a short period of time in an urban environment, what Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak calls the "Three Block War." Recent operations called on Marines to be peacekeepers in some situations, offer humanitarian assistance in others, and, just a few blocks away, engage in combat with well-armed enemies.

"Our goal is to refine our tactics and operational concepts for every type of combat in cities, and not just for humanitarian or peacekeeping operations," Lasswell said. The warfighting lab must develop tactics and concepts that span the entire spectrum of future conflicts, and it's putting everything on the table to get it right.

The lab is looking at five broad areas:

- Combat in cities;
- Seabasing (keeping support out of harm's way);
- Fires and targeting (using air and naval gunfire support with civilians nearby, where collateral damage can affect non-combatant support);
- Aviation (getting Marines in and out, providing fire support, and avoiding bad guys with hand-held missiles); and
- Information, communication, and associated technologies.

Urban Warrior will examine these areas in two phases.

Phase I runs through Fall 1998, mainly on the East Coast, where the lab has already begun developing the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), specialized capabilities, and technologies



required for urban operations. This includes three limited objective experiments (LOEs) and a culminating phase experiment.

The LOEs are building blocks for the culminating experiments. For example, the first LOE, which took place last month at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., explored the effectiveness of ground combat tactics in the urban environment, as well as specific gear such as a hand-held camera that "looks around corners." It also looked at new ways to resupply forces from a sea base, and improve aviation help for combat and combat service support operations.

The second LOE, slated for April at Camp Lejeune, will focus on penetrating

the city via air, surface, and subsurface means; seizing objectives, engaging the enemy, and sustaining the force. That sustainment includes medical support and evacuation. Using extensive information operations, LOE-3 will test isolating and influencing the enemy and non-combatants in the city early in June. The exact location is not yet determined.

The culminating phase experiment will explore the combined effectiveness of the three LOEs by integrating them in a series of experiments resulting in taking control of the objective city.

As Urban Warrior moves to the West Coast for Phase II, the lab will further refine its Phase I findings. It will also experiment with the new and



improved enhanced combat operations center (ECOC); the first evolution proved promising during the Hunter Warrior experiment.

During Hunter Warrior, the ECOC, enabled by advanced communications and intelligence systems, maintained a “near real-time” picture of the battlefield by combining known data with real-time reports from Marines on the ground and in the air, and from flying “drones.” It also helped prioritize and coordinate supporting fire missions, applying combat power to the most important targets.

Urban Warrior will refine the ECOC's control of fires and engagement coordination, while also using it to create

a shared information network between squads and the MAGTF command element.

All of this will culminate in the final Urban Warrior advanced warfighting experiment in the spring of 1999, when SPMAGTF(X) will operate from a true sea base off the California coast.

Running concurrently will be an examination of sea-based logistics in urban warfare, possibly using the annual Kernel Blitz exercise as a venue, according to Lasswell. A unit known as CSS Enterprise, the lab's logistics innovators, will examine a variety of unmanned systems for getting supplies from ship to shore.

Data collected from this examination

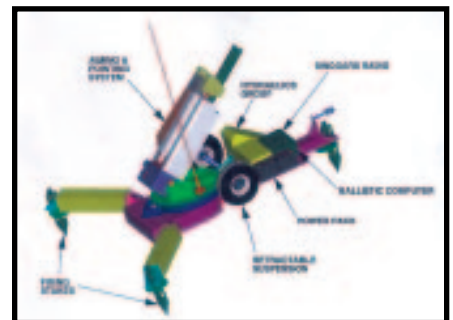
will be wrapped into the other Urban Warrior findings.

In between experiments, the lab will conduct a number of activities, mainly TTP development, technical assessments, and training.

Most TTP activities will focus on developing improved techniques for combat forces moving through urban areas, to include the concept of “cross-canyon mobility.” Urban areas are viewed as canyons (buildings), with rims (building tops) and floors (streets).

From here, tactics and techniques for crossing canyon features — and the technologies required to enable them — are developed. For instance, when the “floors” are impassable but the anti-air threat denies movement above the “rims,” the canyons must be crossed between the canyon walls. The lab, in conjunction with several developers of mountain-climbing and crossing gear, is developing techniques to create “suspension bridges” between buildings that minimize exposure.

But development and testing outside the lab is not limited to mountain-climbing gear. The warfighting lab's aviation branch, for example, is exploring new tactics for employing aviation in urban areas with the Marine Air Weapons and Tactics Squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. Additionally, some Fleet Marine Force units are developing TTPs with the lab's support. The biggest task for the lab in this process is sifting through a host of technologies available to find those that improve capabilities, and are tough enough to be "Marine-proof." As the lab experiments with new tactical concepts and technologies, it expects to discard methods and gear along the way. Many



urban systems developed for police forces, for instance, would crush under the rigors of expeditionary operations which require equipment to be compact for travel, able to function in a corrosive maritime environment, and resilient enough for continuous hard use.

The lab also assesses technologies that support other Urban Warrior concepts or results from Hunter Warrior. For example, infantry units say they need more capable mortars for open terrain (as in Hunter Warrior) and restricted urban terrain (for high-angle fire over buildings). So the lab recently completed the limited firing of a light armored vehicle variant with a turreted 120 mm mortar. Where mobility is not such a high concern, but a vulnerable target (or mortar crew) would be a tactical problem, the lab is exploring the Autonomous Unmanned Mortar System, or “Dragon Fire mortar.” The Dragon Fire mortar (known as the “box mortar” during Hunter Warrior) provides crewless, remote-controlled fire at the immediate call of forward infantry units ashore.

Some technologies from Hunter Warrior are already far enough along that the lab is preparing them for deployment with Marine expeditionary units this

summer. One of these is the Dragon Drone (known as the “X-Drone” throughout Hunter Warrior). Built on an expendable drone airframe, these unmanned aerial vehicles provide surveillance and non-lethal weapon delivery capabilities to deployed expeditionary forces.

Technicians are currently working to make the drones more durable, as well as maturing their shipboard take-off and recovery systems. The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit will be the first to try out these drones this summer and an East Coast MEU should see them later in the year.

As with TTP development, the lab does not go it alone on technology assessment. A number of research agencies, such as DARPA and NRAD, help the lab find and integrate technologies into its experiments. In addition, the lab works closely with selected advanced concept technology demonstrations (ACTDs), such as the Extended Littoral Battlefield (ELB) and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) ACTDs. These ACTDs identify high-payoff technologies that are available in the near term, and the lab and SPMAGTF(X) provide opportunities to test them in a realistic environment.

With TTPs and technologies developed and tested, the lab then trains “experimental” forces — FMF units assigned to the SPMAGTF(X) for specified periods of experimentation — in how to employ them. This takes these experimental capabilities beyond the realm of theory and engineering and puts them into the hands of Marines where the real rubber hits the road. Through analyzing experiment results, the lab finds out how well these innovations work with real Marines in conditions as close to actual combat as possible.

As in Hunter Warrior, analyzing the data collected during Urban Warrior experiments will lead to three results:

Things that work: Depending on how well they work, these results are integrated directly into the FMF, inducted into the Combat Development Process or, for technologies, recommended for acquisition by the Marine Corps Systems Command.

Things that do not work: Failures are discarded or sent back for further development. Things that appear promising but require further experimentation: These you may see in part three of the Sea Dragon trilogy – Capable Warrior – beginning in 1999. □

Inside Special Marine Air-Ground Task Force (X): ‘X’ means Experimental

By Staff Sgt. Eric C. Tausch
HQMC, Washington

Under a cloak of darkness and thick fog, the Marine reaches into his trenchcoat for his passcard. Once across the pit of acid, he approaches a small camera emitting a red laser beam. He thrusts his head in the path of the beam and, after a moment, hears “retina scan complete, have a nice day Sgt. Jones.”

A portion of the wall gives way, and the Marine enters his office space.

For many, the image conjured at the mention of Special Marine Air-Ground

Task Force (Experimental) is one of mystery, of the unknown, of the elite. But a quick step inside their headquarters (no passcard or retina scan required) at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., will give you a healthy dose of reality.

When the Commandant commissioned the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab in October 1995, he also established SPMAGTF(X) to help evaluate the lab’s advanced operational concepts and supporting experimental technology. It’s the testbed for conducting the lab’s experiments and demonstrations.

For certain, these Marines live up to their name: special, because their job is





Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., fire a Shoulder-Launched, Multipurpose Assault Weapon during the three-block war held by the Warfighting Lab at Camp Lejeune. Marines are testing new methods and equipment as well as applying new thought to equipment already in the Corps' arsenal to get the most out of urban combat.

ensuring Marines of the future live to fight another day; experimental, because their efforts to equip and train Marines for success know no limits. But the Marines are not hand-picked or "gold-plated," according to Lt. Col. Robert E. Schmidle, Jr., SPMAGTF(X) second in charge (2IC). "They're regular Marines."

With the lab's second advanced warfighting experiment, Urban Warrior, already underway, Schmidle says the unit continues to put the lab's concepts and technologies to the test, as they did in Hunter Warrior, the first experiment which wrapped up last year.

There are few structural differences between SPMAGTF(X) and the command element of a Marine expeditionary unit. Once the

lab identifies concepts and gear it wants tested, the SPMAGTF dispatches Marine trainers to ground combat, air combat, and combat service support element units in the fleet. Using these trainers to ensure each unit has a handle on the concepts and technologies, each element practices on their own. The instructor then steps back to see what the units think. This is where the real experimentation begins, according to trainer Sgt. Elias E. Sanchez.

"Who better to tell us about the gear" he asked, "than the ones who will use it?"

Sanchez, 28, a machine-gunner who experienced urban combat first-hand in Somalia, is typical among SPMAGTF(X) instructors.

The unit houses experience across the spectrum of ground, aviation, and combat service support military occupational specialties.

"What I enjoy is teaching grunts something that will get them home alive,"

Sanchez said.

Once the individual ground, air, and service support elements grasp the new concepts and technology, they gel into one MAGTF under the SPMAGTF(X) command element for combined training for the intended mission — in this case the Urban Warrior advanced warfighting experiment.

Throughout the course of an advanced warfighting experiment like Urban Warrior, these trainers may introduce multiple units to the experimental concepts and gear. As fleet units rotate on their normal deployment schedules, the SPMAGTF must begin fresh with the oncoming units.

Schmidle says the redundancy in training is better for the Corps than building on an already educated unit. Aside from always getting new ideas and impressions from fresh faces, "The more you expose people to the gear, the more you pollinate the Corps with this knowledge." □



Headed for Recruiting Duty?

By Gunnery Sgt. Cynthia Atwood
MCRC, Washington

Check out these improvements that make life on the streets better.

Making Marines and winning battles is what the Corps is all about, according to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. It's a proven recipe for success, and it is one that depends on a key ingredient — the best young men and women that America can produce.

It is an ingredient that takes time and patience to find and one that needs to be nurtured before placing it into the mixing bowl known as recruit training.

While the drill instructor may take the final product out of the oven called the Crucible, it is the Marine recruiter who mixes experience, judgement, and professionalism to identify and initially prepare tomorrow's Marines for the challenges that lie ahead.

Although recruiting duty can be very rewarding, Marines and their family members tasked with recruiting America's finest can also experience unique challenges along the way.

Sgt. Diana Moreno



Maj. Gen. Jack Klimp (center, then a brigadier general) talks with Baltimore-area recruiters about quality of life issues, the future of recruiting, and the recognized accomplishments of recruiters.

Major Gen. Jack Klimp recognized these challenges when he took over MCRC two years ago. He was determined to improve the quality of life for Marines assigned to recruiting duty, using his vast experience in recruiting and recruit training as a base by which to proceed.

"When I assumed command, we established three goals," Klimp explained. "The first is to accomplish the mission assigned to us by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Our second goal is to take care of our people. Third, recruiting will become an assignment which is career enhancing rather than career ending."

The second goal is the most far-reaching in terms of touching recruiters and their families on a daily basis.

"Our goal in the recruiting command is to achieve a quality of life for our Marines and their families which is equal to that of every other Marine," Klimp said.

To accomplish that goal, a human resources branch was established within the recruiting command.

"Prior to that," Klimp explained, "recruiters and other independent duty Marines, in general, were not represented on quality of life working groups or committees."

A side benefit for the Corps is that many of the quality of life improvements gained by MCRC are being shared with other Marines on independent duty.

According to Elizabeth Montalvo, MCRC assistant chief of staff for Human Resources, many of the improvements were out there, waiting for the command to tap into them. Others were sought out by the command. They range from housing, to uniform changes, to specialized services such as medical care.

"Our goal is to support the Marines, enhance their quality of life, and provide the basic needs for their families while they're out there," Montalvo said.

The command has come a long way in meeting the goal of providing what has been determined to be a list of basic needs — services and support such as medical care, affordable child care, housing, education, and legal services.

Recruiters who are stationed within a one-hour drive of any base are now afforded the same housing privileges and placement on the waiting list as individuals assigned to that base.

"We have a letter signed by all



Teresa Medez strains during a flexed-arm hang/pull-up challenge sponsored by Marine Recruiting Station Baltimore, during a rock concert in Baltimore, Md.

service manpower heads which guarantees recruiters the same priority for housing as permanent personnel," Montalvo said.

"Our goal in the recruiting command is to achieve a quality of life for our Marines and their families which is equal to that of every other Marine."

—Maj. Gen. Jack Klimp.

For individuals not near a military base, a nationwide set-aside housing program is being established. Set-aside

programs offer Marines housing in civilian complexes that agree to charge no more rent than the sum of the member's Basic Allowance for Housing.

After housing, medical care is the top priority for most people, and a top concern of MCRC for its Marines and families.

TRICARE remains the primary source of family health care. But recruiters often find themselves on their own in dealing with treatment and insurance questions when there is no health benefits advisor nearby.

To help provide information about health care benefits and other issues, MCRC established quality of life specialist positions at each of the six district headquarters. These specialists are trained in a wide variety of personnel

services to assist recruiters and their families.

The Human Resources Branch also tracks recruiters who are in the Exceptional Family Member program, which ensures proper health care for family members with special medical requirements.

When spouses need someone to talk to about things other than benefits, to air a concern, or to make a recommendation, they can turn to a key volunteer. The MCRC Key Volunteer Network was established in 1996 and extends from the MCRC coordinator to a volunteer at each recruiting station.

One recommendation submitted through the Key Volunteer Network led to a new information program for future

enjoyed recruiting duty if they had only known what to expect," Montalvo explained.

New recruiters can expect other enhancements as well.

In 1996, for instance, the special duty pay for recruiters was increased for the first time in 10 years, and the tier system of payment was removed. Now, a Marine assigned to recruiting begins to draw the pay upon completion of Recruiters School.

Also, special attention is being paid to assignment preferences to give as many Marines as possible their choice of geographic area.

The difficulty of recruiting without a break has been noted as well, according to Montalvo. MCRC has established a

baseline for funds distribution to other commands.

The professional rewards of recruiting duty have been enhanced as well. A recruiting ribbon was approved in 1995, and Recruiter, NCOIC, and Officer Selection Officer of the Year Awards have become Commandant of the Marine Corps Awards.

Marines are appreciative of the lifestyle improvements underway in the recruiting command.

When Sgt. Earl Crouch reported to RSS Wichita, he quickly put the base housing guarantee to the test.

"I had heard about the housing guarantee at Recruiters School and went to the base to apply for housing. I was told I was a Marine and didn't rate

housing," Crouch said, "so, I pulled out a copy of the policy letter they'd given me at school. The very next day, they called back and apologized and said I was eligible for housing. The waiting list is a year and a half, just like everyone assigned to the base. But, I can get on the list if I want to."

Sergeant Evan Luna is a single Marine who doesn't require all of the family services being offered. After two years as a canvassing recruiter, Luna is now a programs coordinator at RS Orange County.

"I've seen the increase in SDA pay and received the recruiting ribbon. I don't have a family, and I've never been sick, but I'm sure I'd be taken care of if I needed it," Luna said.

Klimp has taken a direct role on a larger quality of life improvement project.

"Important elements of quality of life are the quality of Marine assigned to recruiting duty and the quality of leadership that Marine is provided," he said.

MCRC has been actively working with HQMC to ensure that only the best officers, staff NCOs and NCOs are assigned to this duty.

The Career Recruiter (8412) program has been redesigned, seeking



Gunnery Sgt. Ray A. Beatty, NCOIC of Recruiting Substation Washington, discusses options with a member of the Delayed Entry Program.

recruiters and their families before they check out of their command to go to Recruiters School.

At bases and stations where the Recruiter Screening Teams visit, Family Service Centers will conduct orientation courses for family members of Marines who have orders to Recruiters School. "We did this in response to those spouses who told us they could have

leave tracking program to help ensure Marines get annual leave commensurate with mission requirements.

The command has also reached an agreement with Marine Corps Morale, Welfare and Recreation. This agreement provides each of MCRC's subordinate commands \$60 per year per Marine for unit events, compared to the \$15 per year per Marine MWR routinely uses as a

Sgt. Diana R. Moreno



Fort Collins, Colo., High School principal John Brzeinski receives a Marine “high-n-tight” haircut by Ft. Collins recruiter Staff Sgt. Robert J. Reidsma. Brzeinski lost a wager to Marine recruiters — if the Ft. Collins golf team won the state championship, Brzeinski would get the haircut. They did, and so did he!

proven leaders, according to the general. That same selective standard is applied to majors being considered for assignment as recruiting station commanding officers.

“We’ve come a long way in the last two years, and I’m proud of what’s been accomplished,” Klimp said, “but we have a ways to go.

“I want our Key Volunteer Network to be the best in the Corps. I want to make certain that they have good child care at reasonable rates for recruiters and all independent duty Marines.

“Finally, we are pursuing initiatives designed to provide responsive medical and religious support to all of our Marines and their families,” Klimp said.

That care and attitude of looking ahead has led MCRC to success. It continues to fill the ranks of the Corps with some of America’s best young men and women, and it is taking care of its own while doing so. □

MCRC Marks 50-year Advertising Partnership

The Marine Corps Recruiting Command and members of J. Walter Thompson, the Corps’ contracted advertising agency for 50 years, met during a recent presentation ceremony, confirming their partnership. The video presentation reflected JWT’s involvement since 1941 in communicating to the American people the core values of honor, courage, and commitment and the transformation of becoming a Marine.

Recent campaigns by JWT include the “Sword,” followed by “Knight,” “Chess” and “Transformation.”

The latest campaign, “Quest,” is underway and scheduled for release in late summer of 1998.

The advertising agency was first appointed by the Marine Corps as its recruitment advertising agency in 1947. Since then, the Corps’ advertising contract has gone up for bid every five years. At the beginning of fiscal year 1997 the Corps again awarded it to JWT.

—MCRC Public Affairs

Marine 'Snakes' Quench Their Thirst in Arid Deserts of Egypt

HMM-263 gets a workout in support of Exercise Bright Star '97.

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Landis
Mubarek Military City, Egypt

Two venomous snakes slithered across the hot desert floor in search of a drink, and suddenly came face-to-face with a large horse. Such was the case during a tactical refuel of two AH-1W Super Cobras by a CH-53E Super Stallion using a Tactical Bulk Fuel Delivery System. The operation was part of the training Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 experienced during Exercise Bright Star '97 in Egypt.

The "Thunder Eagles" of HMM-263, aviation combat element for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), conducted numerous training exercises and missions in support of Bright Star, a 10-day exercise designed to enhance the cooperation between seven participating nations to conduct combined operations with the U.S. Central Command.

According to Lt. Col. David Mollahan, the ACE's operations officer, the reinforced squadron used nearly every capability it possesses. "We've

had some extremely valuable training in the desert," said the CH-46E Sea Knight pilot and native of Ontario, Ore. "Everything the ACE can do, we did in Egypt. We were also able to train some of the younger pilots in every facet of what we do in a featureless environment."

The squadron participated in an amphibious landing demonstration to kick off Bright Star, which involved nearly 2,000 Marines and Sailors and 60,000 members of the coalition forces of Egypt, Italy, France, Kuwait, United Kingdom, United States, and the United Arab Emirates. The squadron also participated in a helicopter raid, a Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel mission, refueling from a Forward Area Arming and Refueling Point and KC-130s, external lifts, day and night close-air support training, joint operations with foreign pilot counterparts, Cobra live-fire shoots, and using the CH-53E's TBFDS deep in the Egyptian desert.

Sgt. Jean-Marc S. Schaible



United States Marine Corps CH-46 and CH-53 helicopters from Amphibious Ready Group Guam fly towards the beach in support of the amphibious landing of Egyptian and American troops and equipment during Exercise Bright Star '97.

The MEU Aviation Composite Squadron

- (12) CH-46E Sea Stallion Helicopters
- (4) CH-53E Super Stallion Helicopters
- (4) AH-1W Super Cobra Helicopters
- (3) UH-1N (Huey) Helicopters
- (6) AV-8B Harrier II Jets



Marines hit the beach during a joint Egyptian/U.S. Marine amphibious landing at Abd-El Kerim Beach along the Mediterranean coast.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Benjamin D. Olvey

Captain Jim R. Wright, a 29-year-old Super Stallion pilot who conducted the tactical refuel, said the system was designed specifically to give the Cobras further range. "The TBFDS is a great tool as long as we employ it correctly and tactically," said the native of Little Valley, N.Y.

"It's not to make the CH-53E into a flying gas station, it's to extend the reach of the Cobras during long-range missions," Wright said.

Cobra pilots like Capt. Ian R. Clark appreciated the tactical value of the 40-minute refuel, which enabled them to fly even further into the Egyptian desert to conduct a live-fire shoot on some old

Egyptian military equipment. "It was the first time the squadron employed the TBFDS in a tactical environment, and it enabled us to get some valuable trigger time," said the 27-year-old native of Peterborough, Ontario. "It was a great evolution all the way around, and we had a nice 'shopping center' of targets to choose from."

"It was unfamiliar territory and there was a lot of realism put into the shoot," said Capt. Robert L. Kimbrell, a 28-year-old Cobra pilot from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., who fired 2.75-inch rockets and the Cobra's 20 mm cannon at the live targets. "There were so many things that had to work out to make the mission a

success, and we sometimes take them for granted. Kudos to everyone for making it happen so smoothly."

"Flying in the desert has been a new experience for me, and I felt it and tasted it," said Cpl. Robert J. Jacobs, a 22-year-old CH-53E crew chief from Dayton, Ohio, jokingly of the overwhelming rotorwash of dirt and sand. "From the maintenance to the sky, we do everything."

"Putting in long hours every day to keep the aircraft up was not unheard of during the exercise," said Sgt. David M. Leonard, a 29-year-old CH-46E phase crew leader from Badin, N.C. "Sand has definitely taken a toll on the rotor blades, but we've been working our tails off and kept the aircraft flying." □

Staff Sgt. Jeff Landis



Two AH-1W Super Cobras slither in behind a CH-53E Super Stallion to get a much-needed "drink" from the '53's Tactical Bulk Fuel Delivery System during Exercise Bright Star '97.

Corps' Chief Historian Retires

This man was as much a part of Marine Corps history as the conflicts he documented.

By Staff Sgt. Arturo Prioletta
HQMC, Washington

After more than 36 years of recording the Marine Corps story, Benis Frank retired Oct. 3, 1997, from his position as Chief Historian of the Marine Corps. The man is as much a part of history at the Marine Corps Historical Division as the conflicts he so carefully documented.

"I was a Marine Corps historian from 1950-51 as an officer with the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon at Fleet Marine Force, Pacific," said Frank, recalling his service during the Korean War.

Before graduating from the University of Connecticut and becoming an officer in 1949, Frank had been an enlisted Marine. He was stationed with the 1st Marine Division during World War II and participated in the invasions of the Pacific islands of Peleliu and Okinawa, and then the occupation of North China.

Following a short stint as a carpenter with the 17th Pioneer Battalion, he moved to the division band, where he played oboe in concert and cymbals on the march. He had kept his musical talent hidden until then. "I joined the band in April or May of 1944 and remained with them until I was sent home," said Frank.

He served as a Marine for three years in World War II and three and a half years during the Korean War. He remained in the reserves, completing nearly 17 years as an active and reserve officer.

Since 1961, Frank has been a civilian historian. One of his greatest achievements for the Marine Corps is the Oral History Program that he pioneered.

"Oral history is spoken history," he

said. "The techniques used by the oral historians are the same as the newspaper man — interviewing and more interviewing."

The program started circa 1965-66, when the Historical Division interviewed people who were returning from Vietnam.

"First, we had each major command conduct interviews with veterans. We

commemorative monographs. Of his most memorable projects, he recalls his history book "U.S. Marines in Lebanon."

Before the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Frank held extensive interviews with the Marines of the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit at Camp Lejeune, N.C., when they returned from their first deployment. He later got an

invitation to go on location during the final days of the 22nd MAU tour, when the 24th MAU was scheduled to replace them.

"When the barracks was bombed, I got a call that Sunday morning and was asked to join the MAU in Grenada to sail across to Beirut," he said. "As a result of all the interviews I conducted with the MAU Marines who had been there, I had the makings of a book."

His finished product has "no politics, no strategy, just the story of the MAU," said Frank. It was one of his most exciting research projects because it was the first time he had been in the field with Marines since Korea.

Frank said he will ultimately remember the Marines who spent countless hours talking about their experiences. "Each of the oral history interviews I conducted added to my knowledge of Marine Corps history," he said. "I met some fantastic Marines who leveled with me and spoke to me about their careers. I'm going to miss it."

"It's a whole new Marine Corps — driven by technology. It is now recognized as the 911 force," he said. "Nonetheless, the whole drive of the Marine Corps is based on what has been accomplished in the past. We're going to do it better," said Frank, "but the Marines of the past set the reputation and the record and the attitudes for the American people regarding the Marine Corps." □



Staff Sgt. Arturo Prioletta

Chief Historian of the Marine Corps Benis Frank spent more than 36 years keeping the Corps' past alive. He retired Oct. 3, 1997.

later expanded this by conducting interviews in the fields of Vietnam," Frank explained.

Another aspect of the program was interviewing retired general officers and retired prominent Marines about their careers in the Corps. "It was a cradle to grave type interview," said Frank. "I managed the overall program and I also conducted the interviews with the retirees. I guess I interviewed about 450 generals in 25 years."

Frank conducted interviews until 1990, when he became chief historian.

The author of several books on Marine Corps history, Frank also edited the History and Museums Division's World War II 50th anniversary series of



Pfc. Jeff Clayton, a student at Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, speaks with Capt. Lars Jensen, a MCCES instructor, during one of Jensen's many visits to the Barracks Warrior Room as part of the Mentoring Program.

Mentoring Program Develops the 'Whole Marine'

Students get recipes for success at Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School.

By Sgt. Rob Colenso Jr.
MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Marine communicators demonstrate time and time again that the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School has a recipe for success: It's called mentoring.

The process begins in recruit training, which forges Marines into physically, morally, and mentally tough

warfighters. Now these Marines must be tempered and fine-tuned before the process is complete. This is where the MCCES mentoring program comes into play.

"We teach the 'Whole Marine' concept," said Col. C.E. Cooke, MCCES commanding officer. "If you take care of the Marines, they'll always accomplish the mission."

Cooke and his staff apply this

concept in various ways.

The main thrust is the mentoring program. This program provides a formal backbone for a well-known leadership principle — "Know your Marines and ensure their welfare."

Mentoring is a formal program which places officers and senior staff noncommissioned officers in the student barracks during off-duty hours, where they tour the area and speak to students, asking

and answering questions about overseas tours, pay problems, or finding advice on a personal issue. "They can talk in a private area about 'heart matters,'" Cooke said.

"Students usually won't approach a staff NCO or officer and ask questions," said Master Gunnery Sgt. William Wilson, Jr., student operations officer. "We talk to them first and they usually have a lot of questions."

The students see results of their questions and suggestions, as all their ideas make it to Cooke's desk via the mentoring teams. Students are required to fill out a form at the end of an evening mentoring tour, which is routed to the commanding officer for review. Results of student suggestions are becoming a common sight at the school. Among them are the new basketball court near the student barracks; the bicycle check-out program; and the gym, which provides an extensive athletic facility near the school complex.

"We've gotten really good results from the program, a lot of suggestions and quality of life recommendations," Wilson said.

A recent addition to their barracks which aids in the mentoring process is the "Warrior Room," a converted barracks day room where students can find a quiet place to study, read, relax, or speak with an officer or staff NCO. The room features a prime example of the mentoring program in action — computers equipped with "Marine Doom." These computers were installed at the suggestion of a student.

In addition to the mentoring done during off-duty hours, there is a required discussion period every morning at the school. Classes spend 10 to 15 minutes

On Friday mornings, however, the discussions have a different twist. Rajkovich provides the staff with a brief paragraph detailing an event in Marine Corps history.

"We like to end the week on a good note," Rajkovich said.

A recent addition to the extensive network of school leadership programs is the Health and Awareness Seminar, held every six to eight weeks. These seminars are designed to get Marines into a non-threatening environment to discuss core values issues — issues of a moral nature. Guest speakers teach the students how to live healthier lives, and Marines from the office of the Staff Judge Advocate give a "hard-hitting" sexual harassment class, Cooke said.

These classes are effective. "Blotter entries have been reduced significantly since we began this program," said Lt. Col. E.L. Melton, the school's executive officer.

Instructors are not just spoon-feeding this material to the students, who then learn it by rote and forget it. It's not just a classroom environment, according to Cooke.

"We teach a menu, not a recipe," he said. "We teach students about physical, mental, moral, and spiritual fitness. It's more than just in the classroom. It's in the barracks, in the field, and at physical training. We give the students the menu and they develop their own personal recipe for success. "It complements

what they're taught in recruit training," Cooke added. "We're trying to instill in them the idea that when we're not around they still need to do the right thing." □

Sgt. Rob Colenso, Jr.



Students now have direct input into their quality of life through the Mentoring Program at MCCES. Bikes are now available for check-out by students as a result of their input into the program.

discussing a topic selected by Sgt. Maj. Ronald Rajkovich, the school sergeant major. Topics are typically newsworthy items which come up during the week.

More Changes To Fitness Standards and Testing

Body fat testing, altitude waivers, and modified sit-ups are all part of a new look at fitness.

By Sgt. Kurt Sutton
HQMC, Washington

So, you thought you had mastered the latest changes to the physical fitness test! Through trial and error and lots of practice, male Marines conquered the dead-hang pull-up and female Marines mastered the three-mile run.

Stand by, because more changes are on the way — not only to the PFT, but also to the height and weight standards.

Those changes include new sit-ups, a physical fitness test for those 46 or older, altitude compensation waivers for Marines located in high-altitude areas, and body fat testing instead of an alternate weight standard.

"Performance is the key," said Lt. Col. Leon Pappa, head, Ground Programs Section, Training and Evaluation Division, Quantico, Va.

All-Marine message 369/97 stated the most recent changes to the PFT.

Previously, sit-ups were performed with hands locked behind the head, knees bent, and the head breaking the plane of the knee for a total of 80 sit-ups in two minutes for a maximum 100 points. The revised sit-ups include both a change in execution and scoring.

These new sit-ups, where the arms

are folded and flat across the chest, are designed to reduce stress on the head and neck. There will be no bouncing allowed and the buttocks must remain on the ground; arms must remain folded against the chest or ribs; the elbows or forearms must touch the thighs; shoulder blades must hit the deck on the return.

A total of 100 modified sit-ups in two minutes will be performed for maximum score.

Marines 46 and over will now be required to take the standard Marine PFT. Marines in this category who have not taken a physical examination 12 months prior to July 1, 1998, will require a medical screening before taking a PFT.

A new adjusted scoring matrix will include an age category for these Marines, allowing more run time and fewer pull-ups and sit-ups.

The new standards do offer a little relief to some Marines, however.

Those stationed at 4,500 feet above sea level or higher, such as the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., or Recruiting Station Denver, Colo., now have more time allotted for the run.

Where an 18-minute run would qualify as the best score in normal altitudes, the altitude PFT modification allows an extra 90 seconds to achieve

perfection. This modification is based on tests conducted after Marines had been acclimated to their environment for 30 days.

According to ALMAR 326/97, existing height and weight standards will still be used. If a Marine fails to meet those standards, a body fat measurement will be taken instead of using an alternate weight standard. The body fat standards, 18 percent for males, 26 percent for females, remain unchanged. "We are the only service that requires the lowest percentage of body fat as set down by DoD," Pappa said.

Body fat computation tables have been adjusted to provide a more accurate portrayal of body fat and include a height factor to account for varying body frame sizes.

The measurements to calculate body fat have changed as well, although male Marines are still measured at the neck and abdomen. Female Marines are measured at the neck, waist, and hips, vice the previous neck, forearm, thigh, biceps, and abdomen measurements.

Those Marines who exceed both height and weight and body fat standards will be assigned to the weight control program in the same manner. Military appearance standards are still in effect. □

Parting Shots

Cpl. Mike Wentzel



Capt. Rick Uribe, 13th MEU(SOC) ANGLICO detachment commander, pulls in his parachute after a 1,250-foot jump from a C-130 "Hercules" cargo plane near Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. Marines attached to the 13th MEU(SOC) are participating in the amphibious Exercise Eager Mace 98-1.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris Mobley



Crew members salute Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak as he arrives to address the Marines aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Nimitz*.

Airman Elizabeth Steward



Marines work with U.S. Air Force security specialist personnel on a riot training drill. The Marines are training with US Air Force dog handlers and their attack dogs.